System Configuration Team Meeting Notes

December 8, 2005

1. Greetings and Introductions.

Bill Hevlin welcomed everyone to today's conference call, held December 8, 2005. The following is a summary (not a verbatim transcript) of the topics discussed and decisions made at today's meeting. Anyone with questions or comments about these notes should contact Kathy Ceballos at 503/230-5420.

2. Corps Decision on Lower Monumental RSW Schedule.

Randy Chong said the Corps Walla Walla District had discussed the Lower Monumental decision with District and Division staff, because of the lack of regional agreement about Bay 8 installation. The Corps believes placing the RSW in Bay 8 will improve survival for listed species, will be an efficient use of water, and that the RSW is being placed in an appropriate location. Basically, considering all of that, and knowing that there is strong support from some agencies, though not others, we plan to advertise the contract for the Lower Monumental RSW on January 3, with a target award date in mid-March, Chong said. The Bay 8 Lower Monumental RSW should be operational by April 2007.

Will the Corps do a follow-up spring test in 2006, with respect to the Bay 7 vs. Bay 8 question? Ron Boyce asked. We have been working on a balloon-tag test to get at the question of whether Bay 7 should be operated, or whether that bay should be closed and Bay 6 operated, Marvin Shutters replied. There has been a mixed reaction to the idea of conducting further survival and egress studies of Bay 7 vs. Bay 8 in 2006, he said – it isn't really in the budget at this point. We are planning to do a fall chinook behavioral study in 2006, because 46% of the fish we radio-tagged last year and released just a few kilometers above Lower Monumental never arrived at the BRZ, Shutters said.

Do we know what the training flow will be while the RSW is being operated? Boyce asked. That hasn't been determined yet, but we are studying what the best operation should be, Shutters replied. What we've been looking at is the RSW in Bay 8, with bulk spill through either Bay 6 or Bay 7, said Hevlin. There would also be bulk spill at Bay 5, with training spill at bay 4, and bulk spill through Bay 3, with training spill through Bay 1 or Bay 2, on the south shore, Hevlin said. The spill through the RSW will be about 8 Kcfs, Hevlin said; overall, the project will spill up to the gas cap, with bulk

spill through three bays.

3. Progress Update on '06 Studies from the Studies Review Work Group.

Shutters said the SRWG met last Wednesday. One study we discussed was "Smolt Response to Hydrodynamic and Physical Characteristics of Forebay Flow Nets Upstream of Surface Flow Outlets," which would include collecting data at the entrances of surface bypass routes, specifically at the Lower Granite and Ice Harbor RSWs. At that meeting, it was suggested that we look more broadly at this question, and consider collecting surface velocity data at Rocky Reach as well. And was there a lot of support for doing this study? Hevlin asked. Yes, Shutter replied – tentatively, the study will be conducted at Ice Harbor, Lower Granite and Rocky Reach in 2006, if Chelan PUD is willing to cooperate.

The next SRWG meeting is scheduled for January 19, Shutters added. What about the load following study – is that still moving forward? Hevlin asked. The researchers are going to be developing proposals, which will be distributed as soon as they're ready, Shutters replied; it is likely to be a joint USGS/Battelle study, funded by Bonneville. It is still in process, in other words, although there are still some questions as to exactly what's going to be done.

Mike Langeslay said he is just about to send out the final proposal package from Portland District; that will go out by the end of this week. There are still a lot of loose ends, Langeslay said. It has been proposed that we add a few more data points, including passage distribution across bays 1-6, as a part of The Dalles vortex study, he added; that will involve installing transducers in each bay.

4. Summary of Recent Portland District FFDRWG Meeting.

Langeslay said that, at its most recent meeting, the Portland District FFDRWG group discussed:

- The Dalles BGS and its associated egress study; a model trip to WES has been scheduled for January 17.
- The Dalles wire ropes – Bays 1-6 will be completed by April 4; Bays 7-9 will be completed by May 15.
- B2 corner collector PIT: there were a couple of issues, including the fact that the delivery was not on time. It will now not be possible to have the system installed prior to the first Spring Creek Hatchery release. The second issue was the efficiency evaluation; it doesn't sound as though there is enough funding do that this year.
- B2 BGS – Gary Fredricks suggested that some sort of floating trash boom might be used to improve the efficacy of the B2 corner collector, a concept that would be tested in 2007.
- John Day configuration report – the 50% report is now done; there was a recent

meeting to discuss it. We hope to schedule another meeting soon to get more done on that topic.

5. McNary North Shore Adult PIT Detection Installation Schedule Change.

Chong said the Corps opened bids on this project last week; the bids were significantly higher than government estimates, which meant the Corps could not make an award. We have begun conversations with the bidders to see if we can bring the price down, and have extended the work window to March 31. The contract must be awarded by next week if this project is going to go forward in 2006; if we can't get that done, this project will have to be deferred until next year, Chong said.

6. Walla Walla District Information Papers.

Chong said the district has prepared three information papers, one on adjustable spillway weirs, one on temporary spillway weirs, and one on the Little Goose schedule. All of these papers are in draft form, and we would welcome your comments, Chong said.

6. Next TMT Meeting Date.

The next SCT Meeting was scheduled for Thursday, January 19. Meeting summary prepared by Jeff Kuechle, BPA contractor.